

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00808 01 OF 02 161805Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 USIE-00 IO-14 OIC-04

OTPE-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06

RSC-01 COME-00 DRC-01 /076 W

----- 118357

R 161754Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9765

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 00808

PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, GW, WB, US

SUBJECT: 1974 LF/MF BROADCASTING CONFERENCE; US/FRG
DISCUSSIONS ON JANUARY 14, L974

REF: BONN 32L AND PREVIOUS

L. SUMMARY: THE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AT BUNDESPOST
MINISTRY IN INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, WITH
BOTH US AND FRG REPS NOTING THAT THIS WAS A PRELIMINARY
MEETING FOR EXPLORING EACH SIDE'S VIEWS, AND NOT TO
REACH DECISIONS. BPM AND INTER-GERMAN RELATIONS
MINISTRY WERE REPRESENTED ON THE FRG SIDE, AND THE
DEPARTMENT, USIA, EMBASSY, BERLIN (USMISSION AND RIAS),
RFE AND AFN ON THE US SIDE. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES
THE DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY

2. AMONGTHE SALIENT POINTS BROUGHT OUT AFTER A
NUMBER OF GENERAL COMMENTS, WAS THAT DURING THE PAST
TWO YEARS A JOINT WORKING GROUP OF THE BPM AND THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 00808 01 OF 02 161805Z

GERMAN BROADCASTERS (ARD) HAS BEEN HAVING PREPARATORY
DISCUSSIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE. THE CONSENSUS OF

THESE DISCUSSIONS WAS THAT REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER OF LF/MF TRANSMITTERS AND/OR TRANSMITTING POWERS WOULD BE THE INEVITABLE OUTCOME OF A SUCCESSFULL CONFERENCE. IT IS THE ARD VIEW THAT THE USFORCES BROADCASTING STATIONS SHOULD MOVE FROM LF AND MF TO VHF-FM OPERATION (100-104 MHZ) AND THAT RFE AND VOA SHOULD RENOUNCE THEIR LF/MF FREQUENCIES IN FAVOR OF MORE SHORT-WAVE ACTIVITIES. THE BPM REPS NOTED FRENCH AND UK RELUCTANCE TO AGREE TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE 100-104 MHZ BAND TO VHF-FM BROADCASTING, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE US MIGHT ASSIST IN BRINGING PRESSURE ON THEM TO TAKE THIS STEP. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE AFN REP NOTED AFN'S INTEREST IN CONTINUING BOTH AMPROGRAMS AND THEIR CONTRAST PROGRAMMING ON FM.

3. THE BPM BELIEVES THAT FOR HIGH POWER TRANSMISSION, THE ALLOCATION OF NOT MORE THAN FIVE MEDIUM WAVE FREQUENCIES AND PROBABLY ONLY ONE LONG WAVE FREQUENCY TO THE FRG COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THE CONFERENCE. GERMAN BROADCASTERS NOW OPERATE 17 TRANSMITTERS WITH POWER IN EXCESS OF 70 KW IN LF/MF. THE BPM IS THEREFORE OF THE OPINION THAT UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE ARD AND THE PUBLIC THE FRG MAY HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO GERMAN INTERESTS WHEN ASSIGNING THE REDUCED FREQUENCIES FINALLY ALLOCATED.

4. WITH RESPECT TO ASSIGNMENTS TO WEST BERLIN (RIAS) THE BPM STATED THAT THIS WAS MAINLY A POLITICAL PROBLEM WHICH COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITHOUT THE FOREIGN O-FICE (AUSWAERTIGES AMT). THE BPMREPS SAID IT MUST BE EXPECTED THAT , UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE GDR AND THE OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES, ONLY ONE LF/MF FREQUENCY OF LOW POWER COULD BE OBTAINED FOR BERLIN. THE FRG REPS REPORTED THAT DURING FRG-GDR DISCUSSIONS IN 1971 IT WAS AGREED TO COORDINATE ALL FREQUENCIES ALONG THE COMMON BORDERS AND BERLIN IN THREE GROUPS; LAND MOBILE SERVICES, BROADCASTING AND RADIO RELAY LINKS. WHILE DISCUSSIONS ON LAND MOBILE SERVICES HAVE BEEN STARTED AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BONN 00808 01 OF 02 161805Z

TECHNICAL LEVEL, THE GDR HAS RECENTLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS ANY BROADCASTING PROBLEMS AT ALL.

5. FINALLY, THE BPM REPS UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED THE US DESIRE TO RETAIN THE STATUS QUO IN THE LF/MF BAND, BUT THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE REALIZED THAT CHANCES ARE NOT GOOD. IN THE BPM'S VIEW, WITH WHICH THE US REPS AGREED, IT SEEMS TOO EARLY TO AGREE NOW ON JOINT PROCEDURES FOR THE CONFERENCE, BUT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON TACTICS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR

US TRANSMITTERS WILL BE NECESSARY. IT WAS AGREED THAT
CONTACTS WOULD BE MAINTAINED THROUGH THE EMBASSY
AND AS APPROPRIATE AT TECHNICAL LEVELS DIRECTLY

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PAGE 01 BONN 00808 02 OF 02 161803Z

62

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 USIE-00 IO-14 OIC-04

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BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE BPM. THE CCIR MEETING
IN JULY AT GENEVA WILL ALSO OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY WISHES TO STRESS THAT BPM REPS
WERE ESSENTIALLY POINTING OUT THE DIFFICULTIES AND
PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT BE ENCOUNTERED IN THE OCTOBER
CONFERENCE, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE EBU
TECHNICAL PROPOSALS. THEY WERE NOT DESCRIBING WHAT
THEY THOUGHT MIGHT BE THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCES FOR
LF/MF FREQUENCIES AFTER ALL POLITICAL AND INDIVIDUAL
COUNTRY PROBLEMS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THEY
DID BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE WISE FOR THE US TO DEVELOP
FALL-BACK POSITIONS SINCE THEY THOUGHT THAT MAINTENANCE
OF THE STATUS QUO WAS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE. WITH RESPECT
TO BERLIN, THE EMBASSY AND THE MISSION WILL BE
CONSIDERING THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF BRINGING

THE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO PLAY AND ALSO WHAT
MIGHT BE EXPECTED OF THE FRG AT THE CONFERENCE
SINCE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BONN MAY FIND ITSELF FACING A
CONFLICT OF INTEREST BETWEEN FREQUENCIES IN THE FRG AND
BERLIN BROADCASTING. END COMMENT
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PAGE 02 BONN 00808 02 OF 02 161803Z

7. EXCEPT IN GENERAL SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE WAS NOT,
RPT NOT, CLEARED WITH THE OTHER US REPS PRESENT AT THE
MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, RADIO FREQUENCIES, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN00808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740139/aaaabkio.tel
Line Count: 184
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BONN 32L AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1974 LF/MF BROADCASTING CONFERENCE; US/FRG DISCUSSIONS ON JANUARY 14, L974
TAGS: ETEL, GE, WB, US, ITU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005